

Reading

December 11, 1995

Ms. Valerie Perry
1111 Park Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Dear Ms. Perry:

This is in response to your letter of November 28, 1995 regarding the salt tolerance of plants. Knowledge about salt tolerance has many practical applications. For instance, in parts of the San Joaquin Valley there is salty groundwater. (Groundwater is water that occurs beneath the surface of the land. It is the water you get from a water well.) The groundwater is salty because there is some salt that occurs naturally in the soil, and because the irrigation water brought to the area in aqueducts contains some salt. This salt gets concentrated in the groundwater. In some places there is so much salty groundwater that it comes in contact with the roots of farmers' crop plants and reduces production of crops. To overcome the problem, some farmers switch to crops that can tolerate more salt. To solve the problem, some farmers are trying to lower the level of the salty groundwater by pumping it from wells and using it to irrigate plants that are salt-tolerant. In either case, they need to know the salt tolerance of various plants.

Enclosed is some information that may help you with your science project. Good luck!

Sincerely,

/s/ RS

Rick Soehren
Environmental Resources Specialist

Enclosures

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